

Who says Tarzan rules the jungle

By KARIN KNAPP

Suzy and Drucy, two chimpanzees, swung playfully from house to tree on the sandy island they share with three other chimps. They seemed friendly to each other until two men approached their island with a boatload of bananas, oranges, cabbages and tomatoes.

Suzy picked up a banana. She held it and ate the inside. Then, after a moment, she put the peel in her mouth, too, and that was the end of the friendship between Suzy and Drucy.

Drucy, with arms three times as long as a man's, began pounding on the ground. Drucy is definitely the ruler of the island," Gary Sherley said.

Sherley, a senior in the Wildlife and Fisheries Department at Texas A&M University, is park manager of Wild Animals International, the name of Suzy, Drucy and more than 100 other exotic animals.

Wild Animals International is a breeding farm for zoological animals, said John Anderson, vice president for operations of the business. "Primarily, we breed, raise, and sell to zoos and private collectors throughout the world. We provide animals for movies, advertising and displays."

Three cats from Wild Animals International recently "starred" in the movie "The Island of Dr. Moreau," Anderson said.

"We've also been asked to furnish tame animals for a new movie," Anderson said. "It's about an earthquake in California that breaks open a zoo in the city."

Animals for breeding are left wild because breeders get better results, Anderson said.

But Sherley said most of the animals bred for sale or trade are wild.

"It's a big plus in the animal business, especially with carnivores — lions and tigers, to have tame animals," he said. "The price actually doubles."

To keep an animal tame, we have to work out with it one or two hours a day, every day of the week," Anderson explained. "The animals are to learn discipline and remember it. It takes a lot of time."

SHERLEY SAID the one-week-old animals are taken from their mothers and bottle-fed by humans. "It's kind of sad and it's kind of fortunate," he said. "The first couple of days are hard, but after that the animals are no problem."

The animals don't die often because mother's milk, especially in

cats, is closely duplicated and fed to the animals, Sherley added.

The cubs are then fed ground meat; adult cats eat chicken and horse meat provided by the College of Veterinary Medicine. Sherley estimated it costs \$3 a day to feed the adult cats.

Anderson said the animals eat a tremendous amount of food.

"It's hard to say exactly how much they eat," Anderson said. "I'd say they go through a couple-hundred pounds of fruits and vegetables a week, and a couple tons of hay. And they must eat at least \$800 worth of sack feed per week."

The 200-acre park is privately-owned, so the overhead is paid without the funds most city-owned zoos receive, Sherley said. Wild Animals International depends on animal dealing for its income, although it charges visitors a fee.

SIXTY ACRES of the park are open to the public. Some of the animals walk freely around the park, but most are in pens much larger than those found in zoos, Anderson said. He and owner Richard LaBlue want the surroundings to remain as natural as possible, Anderson said.

In a round pen near Chimp Island, a sad-eyed grizzly bear named Raggedy sat playing with his paws. When visitors walked up to the fence around the pen, five-month-old Raggedy stuck a paw through the cage as if to shake hands.

When asked if all the animals are as lonely as Raggedy, Sherley said they are checked at least once a day and he tries to play with them as often as possible.

"They do get lonely," he said, "but it just can't be avoided until we find mates for them."

Raggedy, two four-month-old Siberian tiger cubs and several other animals at the compound came from a Dallas zoo. Two pumas were found along the Navasota River in Brazos County. The kan-



Chico, the long-necked one, is being fed by Nino who works at Wild Animals International. On the zoo-type ranch, located about five miles outside Bryan, animals are bred, raised, traded and sold to zoos worldwide.

Battalion photo by Carol Meyer

garoo and wallabies are from Australia, and many of the birds — Amazon parrots, macaws, toucans — are South American.

ANDERSON said LaBlue spends most of his time travelling all over the world getting animals. LaBlue is now in South America trying to get a large shipment of birds, Anderson said.

Wild Animals International operates two facilities in Latin America for gathering birds. Foreign birds are sent to the corporation's quarantine station in Los Angeles, California.

The Bryan compound opened in June, 1977. Sherley said Bryan was chosen as headquarters because of the mild climate and central location between the east and west coasts.

"We opened the park to the public mainly as a community service, but we've had great support from the community," Anderson said. Anderson said each animal does

have its own distinct personality and some are very big hams.

THE MAIN attraction is definitely Chimp Island," Anderson said. "Those chimps really put on a good show, especially at feeding time. They know what an audience is."

From Anderson's home on the compound grounds, the whooping sounds of Suzy, Drucy, Coco and the other chimpanzees could be heard. Roosters were crowing, lions were roaring and Anderson's telephone was ringing.

"We're very short-handed right now," Anderson said in a long phone interview. "We have ten staffers and three of them are students from A&M. That's not a big staff, but we never have problems with the animals that those of us here can't handle."

Anderson was a banker, but five years ago he became involved with Wild Animals International through his pheasant collection. He said his education in wild animals is "self taught."

Turkey gobbles title

United Press International
CUERO, Tex. — The town of Worthington, Minn., will have possession of the Traveling Turkey Trophy of Tumultuous Triumph for the next year thanks to the fleet-footed fowl, Paycheck.

Begonia, the turkey representing the honor of this South Texas town.

The annual race began in 1972 when Cuero celebrated its centennial and said it was the turkey capital of the world — an honor Worthington also claimed — and the towns decided on an annual race to determine the international gobble headquarters.

Texas A&M — Town Hall
Presents
Special Attraction #3
Michael Murphey
with
Kenny Rankin
Friday, October 28
8:00 p.m. G. Rollie White Coliseum

Tickets:	General Admission	Reserved
A&M Students/Date	\$2.25	\$3.75-\$4.25
General Public	\$3.00	\$3.75-\$4.25

Tickets & information at MSC Box Office 845-2818

Miller set as speaker

Dr. Jarvis Miller, president of Texas A&M University, will be the keynote speaker at the "Fourth Student Conference on Marine Affairs" in Corpus Christi, Oct. 16-19.

Student delegates from 45 colleges and universities will meet with speakers and panelists from government, industry and educational institutions during the three-day program on "Living With the Sea."

The conference is sponsored by Texas A&M's Center for Marine Resources with support from the Sea Grant College Program and the Link Foundation.

It is designed to promote interaction between students and invited professionals on a range of topics related to man's intimate relationship with the oceans. Panelists from government, industry and academia will give their views on a spectrum of marine-related subjects including fisheries, recreation, science and the future of man in the sea.

sources with support from the Sea Grant College Program and the Link Foundation.

It is designed to promote interaction between students and invited professionals on a range of topics related to man's intimate relationship with the oceans. Panelists from government, industry and academia will give their views on a spectrum of marine-related subjects including fisheries, recreation, science and the future of man in the sea.

TECHNOLOGY AND POLICY PROGRAM AT MIT

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is now offering a Master of Science Program in Technology and Policy. This program is designed for persons wanting to participate in leading the development, use and control of technology and its products. Students apply systems approaches to such problems as the control of automotive emissions, energy conservation policy, the use of automation in manufacturing, and the life-cycle design of goods. The program may be particularly appropriate for professionals with practical experience. For information write to:

Prof. Richard de Neufville
School of Engineering
Room 1-138, MIT
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

THE MEMBERS OF
PHI DELTA GAMMA,
NATIONAL GRADUATE WOMEN'S
PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY,
INVITE THOSE
INTERESTED IN THE
GRADUATE EDUCATION
OF WOMEN
TO A
RECEPTION FOR NEW
GRADUATE STUDENTS
AND FACULTY
ON
TUESDAY EVENING,
OCTOBER 11, 1977
AT 8 PM
IN
MSC SOCIAL ROOM

Ski
PURGATORY

ONLY
\$197
Jan 6-14

PRICE INCLUDES:
*Round trip transportation
*Transportation to and from slopes
*6 days/6 nights lodging at luxurious Tamarron
*6 days lift tickets
*insurance

Applications for Trip
Open Mon. Oct. 3 Rm. 216 MSC
\$100 Deposit to save your place. This trip is limited to 40 people so act now!

sponsored by MSC Travel Committee

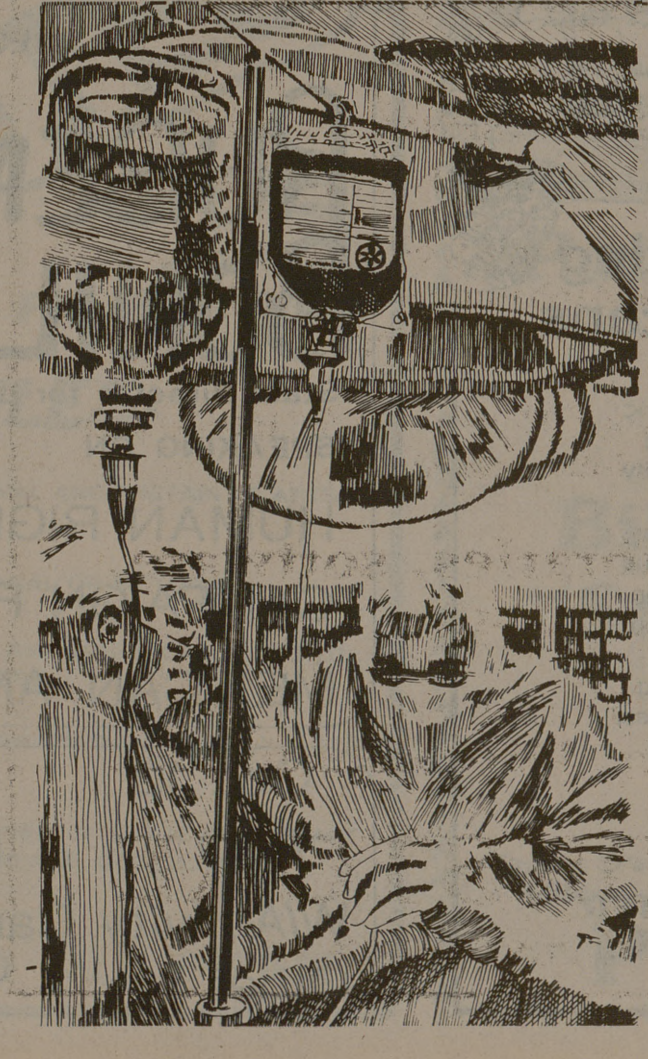
Political Forum
presents
Rep. Barry Goldwater, Jr. (R-Cal.)
speaking on
ENERGY

Oct. 13, 8:00 P.M.
Rudder Theatre
\$.50 students
\$1.50 nonstudents

Swept Away

OCT. 12
8:00 P.M.
THEATER

AGGIE CINEMA



Will There Be Blood If You Need It?

... only if there's a volunteer donor to provide it.

Like yourself
Blood has to come from another human being. It cannot be manufactured.

You can be that volunteer donor on October 11, 12, 13.

That's when the Texas A&M Blood Club has its Fall blood drive.

Wadley Central Blood Bank is proud to have been associated with this 12th Man tradition of service to humanity during the past 18 years. We look forward to continuing to participate in the Texas A&M Blood Club drives for many years to come... and we join with all Texans in saluting this unparalleled gesture of generosity and concern for one's fellow man!

AGGIE BLOOD DRIVE OCTOBER 11, 12, 13
LOCATION:
MEMORIAL STUDENT CENTER
SECOND FLOOR (ROOMS 212-224)
TIME: 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Wadley Central Blood Bank
9000 Harry Hines Blvd. Dallas, Texas 75235
(214) 350-9011